

**Minutes of Meeting
CITIZENS' EFFICIENCY COMMISSION
November 9, 2011**

ATTENDANCE

Citizens' Efficiency Commissioners

	Jeff Adkisson	×	Jim Fulgenzi, Jr.
×	Mike Aiello	×	Bob Gray
×	Daniel Cadigan	×	Karen Hasara
	Mike Chamness	×	Marilyn Kushak
×	Patrick Coburn	×	Frank McNeil
×	Josh Collins		Mike Murphy
×	Jerry Crabtree	×	Robert Plunk
×	Gary Crompton	×	Kent Redfield
×	James Donelan	×	J. D. Sudeth
×	Kevin Dorsey	×	Kenley Wade, Sr.
×	Cliff Erwin	×	Joan Walters
	Lee Fields, Jr.		

Others

Norm Sims- SSCRPC

Jeff Fulgenzi- SSCRPC

Amy Uden- SSCRPC

Devin Lavigne- Houseal-Lavigne Consultants

John Houseal- Houseal-Lavigne Consultants

Sheila Stocks-Smith- community

Mike Farmer- City of Springfield

Bill Logan- City of Springfield

Bob Winters- Village of Illiopolis

Rex Bangert- City of Leland Grove

Brian Wood- Village of Thayer

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Karen Hasara called the meeting of the Citizens' Efficiency Commission to order and welcomed commissioners. She introduced a new commissioner in attendance, Mr. Frank McNeil.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Hasara asked for any additions or amendments to the minutes. There were none. Mr. Kenley Wade made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Marilyn Kushak seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Hasara expressed her gratitude to the Commissioners for their participation in the numerous CEC events that had occurred since the last meeting. In particular, she thanked Commissioners who had chaired and attended public hearings, as well as members of the task force that examined committee structures.

She also inquired as to Commissioners' opinion on the remaining jurisdiction presentations they would like to hear. The remaining reports include those on the city, the county, the airport authority, the community college, and the school districts.

The Commissioners expressed a desire to hear reports from all remaining jurisdictions. Those Commissioners representing districts who have not yet presented were requested to begin arranging for presentations from their jurisdictions.

IV. REPORT ON PUBLIC MEETINGS

Mr. Robert Plunk then provided Commissioners with a report on the second public town hall meeting that took place at the Riverton High School Auditorium on November 2nd. He thanked Commissioners for their attendance and participation in the meeting. He then provided a summary of the public comments given by three attendees at the meeting, which spurred some discussion among Commissioners. These comments concerned the challenges of small villages, particularly Spaulding, with providing services such as road maintenance; the possibility of dissolving certain villages; the need for long-term planning in all levels of government; and the possibility of combining functions of townships.

Mr. Cliff Erwin then gave a similar report on the third public meeting, which occurred on November 9th in the County Board Chambers. He noted the comparatively high levels of attendance for this meeting, and also thanked Commissioners for their presence. Comments at this meeting related to concerns from the Farm Bureau about rural representation and having fewer elections, a reiteration of road maintenance and annexation suggestions pertinent to small villages like Spaulding, e-communication mechanisms for various entities of government, a recommendation for a standardized building code, and the suggestion of examining whether or not redundancies exist in Capital Township.

Commissioners indicated their interest in following up on public comments, and briefly discussed the benefit of the public hearings.

V. REPORT OF AD HOC TASK FORCE ON COMMITTEES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF CEC COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Ms. Joan Walters presented the report of the task force designated to make recommendations for an appropriate structure and process for CEC committees. She noted that the task force had distilled the numerous functions of government into four categories which could serve as committee headings. These committees will include a Public Safety Committee, Public Works Committee, Community Development Committee, and Administrative, Budget & Management Committee.

She also indicated that the task force had developed several procedural suggestions, including having at least seven members per committee, meeting regularly in a publicly accessible space, appointing a recorder to facilitate OMA compliance, and inviting community members to provide expertise and input in committee tasks.

Some discussion occurred as to the various functions that fell under each committee's domain. Commissioners agreed that the CEC at large could ensure that all public input and other recommendations for committee research could be directed to the appropriate committee by the Chairperson and the Commission at large. Commissioners also noted that the functions that fall within each committee will remain open and flexible as tasks arise.

Following this discussion, Mr. Patrick Coburn moved to approve the proposed four-committee structure. Mr. Mike Aiello seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Commissioners agreed to sign up online for their preferred committees before the next meeting. Ms. Walters also agreed to review public input from the town hall meetings and develop a suggested committee classification for the various public recommendations that the Commission has received to date.

VI. REPORT ON PUBLIC NEWSPAPER SURVEY

Mr. Aiello reported that he would continue to pursue opportunities for a survey of the public via the State Journal Register. Mr. Norm Sims suggested that Commissioners consider various questions that they would like to ask in a survey of the public. Commissioners discussed the opportunity to use the newspaper as a resource much like the town hall meetings, through which additional public input can be received.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MAYORS' ALLIANCE

A number of members of the Sangamon County's Mayors' Alliance attended the meeting in order to provide input to the CEC. Representing Mayor Houston, Mr. Bill Logan initiated the mayors' comments by expressing appreciation for the fact that the mayors were meeting in the form of the Mayors' Alliance and for the purpose of working with the CEC.

Mr. Logan characterized the difficult financial conditions facing the City of Springfield and all area units of government. He noted that the City has put forth an effort to audit its personnel, and relayed the many challenges facing the City, such as a federal sewer audit. He related the City's goals in addressing its infrastructure needs. He then expressed the City's willingness to examine various efficiency suggestions and partner with the CEC in its discussions and endeavors. Commissioners questioned Mr. Logan regarding his perception of both past consolidation efforts and the possibility of a metropolitan police force. Mr. Logan highlighted the consolidations that have occurred over the years and considered them good success stories of working together to achieve common goals.

Considerable discussion occurred regarding jurisdictional boundaries and the CEC's opportunity to address major issues for the region. Mr. Bob Winters provided background information pertaining to Illiopolis's part-time police force sharing. He expressed Illiopolis's difficulties with declining Motor Fuel Tax funds and future road resurfacing projects. Mr. Winters also discussed ideas for additional community meetings and opportunities for members of the public to provide input to the CEC.

Mr. Brian Wood voiced agreement with Mr. Winters's police- and road-related concerns. He indicated that the Village of Thayer has unsuccessfully attempted in the past to approach neighboring cities for a police protection agreement. He noted that geographical problems exist for directing cell phone 911 calls in the Thayer area, due to its proximity to Macoupin County. He, too, voiced infrastructure concerns because of a power surge that destroyed certain equipment in Thayer, but noted that Thayer's sewage system could support more waste if logistical difficulties did not exist with crossing County lines.

Mr. Rex Bangert proceeded to explain Leland Grove's perspective on a metro police department and other efficiency issues. Commissioners questioned Mr. Bangert as to intergovernmental cooperation on police protection and road maintenance among various communities such as Jerome and Leland Grove, along with the structure of Leland Grove's forces. Commissioners and mayors engaged in discussion about constituent expectations for service and response time, police districts, and special districts' police forces, among other budgeting and efficiency concerns. Finally, Mr. Bangert suggested that the CEC work from the bottom up on efficiency improvements.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Sims announced that a space on the SSRPC website had been created for the CEC to post minutes, agendas, and other important documents. This site can be accessed at www.ssrpc.com, through the Program Areas and Special Projects links.

He reported that binders are now available for the Commissioners' use, and suggested that the SSRPC conference room is also available as a meeting space for committees. He further informed the Commissioners that they will be subject to new OMA requirements, and must participate in online training on Open Meeting requirements in the coming year.

Due to its proximity to the Thanksgiving Holiday, Chairperson Hasara suggested moving the next CEC meeting from the fourth Wednesday in November to the fifth Wednesday, November 30. Mr. Josh Collins moved to reschedule the meeting. Mr. Erwin seconded the motion, and it was approved. Commissioners further established that the December meeting schedule will not be altered. Meetings will occur on December 14th and 28th.

Next meeting date—November 30, 2011 at 3:00 PM, Location to be the Hoogland Center for the Arts.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Hasara extended the opportunity for the Commission to hear public comment. Mr. John Houseal of Houseal Lavigne Associates briefly identified his firm's work on the Sangamon County Regional Comprehensive Plan. He then applauded the Commission for its goals of regional cooperation, noting that they have the unique opportunity to set national precedent with the scale of efficiencies they are considering.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Coburn moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wade seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Uden
Acting as Recording Secretary